

U.S. Department
of Transportation
United States
Coast Guard



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From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: RECERTIFICATION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSELS AS
OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSELS

1. In response to an appeal of previous policy regarding the change of service from Oceanographic Research Vessel (ORV) to Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV), Commandant (G-MOC) reviewed the applicability of the Interim Final Rule (IFR) for 46 CFR Subchapter "L" to existing vessels. During this review, it was determined that the IFR did not explicitly address this subject. Accordingly, the applicability of this subchapter to existing vessels will be included in the Final Rule. Pending the publication of the Final Rule for Subchapter "L," existing vessels may be recertificated as OSVs under 46 CFR Subchapters "I" or "T" subject to the following:

- a. The vessel was contracted for before March 15, 1996.
 - b. The vessel was previously certificated as an OSV. This does not include "existing OSVs" inspected in accordance with Public Law 96-378 which are 20 years old or older.
 - c. The vessel did not undergo a major modification or conversion as part of its change out of OSV service.
 - d. The vessel did not undergo a significant alteration or major conversion as part of its change back to OSV service.
 - e. The recertification is completed prior to the effective date of the Final Rule for Subchapter "L."
2. Currently, Commandant (G-MOC) expects that following the effective date of the final rule, any vessel changing to OSV service will be required to meet the provisions of the new regulations in 46 CFR Subchapter "L."
3. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to CDR Tetreau, Chief, Marine Safety Compliance Branch at (504)589-3624 or LCDR Daughdrill at (504)589-6271.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Calhoun".
J. W. CALHOUN
By direction

Dist: All Eighth District Gulf Region MSOs, MSU and MSDs
Copy: COMDT (G-MOC-2), (G-MSO-2)